

# PARABLES *of* POSSIBILITY:

## *Women's Studies Research Colloquium*

Friday, March 12th, 1999

1:00 to 5:00 pm

### PROGRAM

1:00 pm

#### Introduction: Kay Armatage

Associate Professor, Women's Studies & Cinema Studies, UT,  
Director of the Graduate Collaborative Program in Women's Studies

#### Maureen Giuliani

PhD Candidate, History, UT

*"Long Term Health Consequences of  
Women Political Prisoners  
Subjected to State Organized Violence"*

Findings from a literature review pertaining to refugee women trauma and health; the debates within feminist literature with respect to the use of oral history as a way for women who have been exposed to trauma to 'bear witness to the truth'; and a history of the 'Southern Cone' of South America will be presented and discussed.

#### Lara Hinchberger

PhD Candidate, Medieval Studies, UT

*"Hrotsvit of Gandersheim and the Idea  
of Power"*

Hrotsvit of Gandersheim's historical poems problematized the concepts of '(power) centre' and 'periphery' as they were played out in tenth-century Saxony.

#### Catherine Philips

PhD Candidate, French, UT

*"L'Altérité des femmes et  
la poétique motivée d'Hélène Cixous et  
de Monique Wittig" "Women's Alterity  
and the Strategic Poetics of Hélène  
Cixous and Monique Wittig"*

Cixous et Wittig contestent les discours phallogocentriques qui rendent les femmes l'autre du même. Leurs essais se complètent d'une poétique motivée et déconstructrice de renversement, d'excès et d'intersubjectivité.

Cixous and Wittig contest phallogocentric discourses which render women the other of the same. Their essays are complemented by a strategic, often deconstructive, fictional poetics of reversal, excess and intersubjectivity.

3:00 pm

BREAK

3:15 pm

#### Eleanor Pontoriero

PhD Candidate, Religion, UT

*"Invoking the Beloved: Levinas and  
Irigaray on 'the Feminine' as a  
Category of Being"*

In her concern with a female divine (*transcendental sensible*), Irigaray has critically engaged the feminine category privileged by Emmanuel Levinas in his ethics. Levinas invokes the feminine as the shekinah, the Beloved (L'Aimée qui est aimée) from the Song of Songs. In this paper, my intent is to engage the significance of the feminine category as it relates to Irigaray's concern with a female divine (*transcendental sensible*); a relation intrinsic, for Irigaray, to defining woman as an ethical subject.

#### Lee Waldorf

PhD Candidate, Faculty of Law, UT

*"Derrida, Marx, and the Force of Law"*

This paper considers Derrida's Spectres of Marx, and the critique of spectrality he identifies there as one of the 'spirits of Marx' that can help guide our explorations of the problem of justice, in relation to the Canadian legal conceptualization of equality.

5:00 pm

REFRESHMENTS

Room MU 101

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